

PINK LADY RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

<http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/pinklady/pink-lady-transit-commission>

Meeting - Tuesday April 2, 2019 @ 10:00am

City of Reedsburg City Hall, city council room

Reedsburg, WI

Draft Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Chair Alan Anderson, Vice Chair Virgil Kasper, John Geoghegan, Treas. Dick Whitehurst

Not Present: Elmer Ellis, Doug Hilber

Others Present: Kim Tollers, WisDOT RHS. Jen Lucht WSOR, Tim Becker City of Reedsburg, Ed singer WisDOT, Jeff Lentz Mid-Continent Railroad Museum, Don Evenson, LSRHA, Bob Ristow LSRHA, Tryg Knutson from Senator Erpenbach's office.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Anderson. Introduction of visitors and members.

Roll Call: Quorum established.

Certification of open meeting law. Meeting was certified as having met the requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Kasper, seconded by Whitehurst to approve agenda. Carried.

Approval of Draft Minutes December 4 2018. Moved by Geoghegan, seconded by Whitehurst to approve December minutes. Motion carried.

Treasures Report: Balance \$2656.31. Moved by Kasper, seconded by Geoghegan to approve treasures report. Carried.

Chairman's Report: Chair Anderson

The current state budget looks like it will go up from last biennium's \$12million but the amount is undecided. Anderson will send a letter in on behalf of the Pink Lady Commission requesting \$30 million. Many other entities were doing the same.

WSOR report: Ken Lucht supported the \$30 million request. A lot of work is going on around the state including on our line.

- On our line the Bridge at Westport bridge #262 is finished being rebuilt as well as the bridge at Monona bay #232.
- County B crossing in Columbia county has been redone as well.
- The Madison to Reedsburg "phase I" tie and track repair would replace 1500 ties per mile and is in the queue for work when funds allow it's an \$11 million project.
- The Reedsburg cold storage is up and running.

- There are problems too. Prairie Du Chien is out of service due to high water and we have had a derailment in Spring Grove Illinois that was thankfully not too bad and no one was hurt. WSOR is doing a major study on derailments that we will hear more about in the future.

WisDOT update: Kim Toller's confirmed the uncertainty of the state budget and expressed the hope that it would be raised above last biennium's level. If not many things would be pushed off for years to come.

Old Business: Both Kim and Ken confirmed that the work on the Merrimac Bridge should start later this year.

Economic impact study: Jenny Erickson presented the draft of the economic impact study. The impacts were up as expected. Not all of the shippers gave us all their data so it was felt that the impacts are under reported.

Trespass issue: see above notes.

New Business: The commissioners approved Chairman Anderson to write letters of support for budget issues and other things as they arise. Motion by Kasper seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Local Reports:

Baraboo:

-Whitehurst: Reported that business was good and shipping steady.

Rock Springs:

-Geoghegan: Grain shipping is busy. In April there were 25 cars a week. Business is good and shipments were as expected.

Reedsburg: Business steady with the new cold storage unit starting to ship.

Legislative comments: Tryg Knutson from Senator Erpenback reported the Senators support for \$30,000,000 for the rail program in the next biennium. It is not yet decided

Public Comments: Jeff Lentz thanks the commission for their work and support. He reported that Mid-Continent has opened up rail connection to the mainline with a major bridge repair and has had deliveries on the first time in a number of years. They received \$125,000 from the county which helped a great deal. They have been isolated for 10 years. They are working now on additional bridge (Seely Creek) and track repairs.

Meeting dates 2019: August 6th, December 3th location TBD

Adjourned: 11:00 am. Approved Geoghegan, Seconded Kasper

Recorded by Alan Anderson.